ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD
Calgary Alberta

Informational Letter
IL 81-10

TO: All Drilling Contractors
All Oil and Gas Operators

DISPOSAL OF CAMPSITE AND WELL SITE WASTE

Section 8.160 of the Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations states that the operator of a well, battery, or scheme shall ensure that waste material does not create or constitute a safety hazard or nuisance. Pit disposal of non-hydrocarbon combustible waste can lead to problems with bears and other wildlife and to the scattering of such waste on private and public land.

The Board has reviewed waste disposal requirements on public land with Alberta Energy and Natural Resources and burning regulations with Alberta Environment. Effective immediately, the Board advises that, where access to an approved disposal site is not available

1 An incinerator for disposal of non-hydrocarbon combustible waste is required at or near each campsite associated with a well, battery, or scheme.

2 Garbage which may attract wildlife shall be incinerated at least daily.

3 Combustible waste from the well, battery, or scheme shall be contained at all times and incinerated as required.

4 Portable incinerators for the above use are exempted from Alberta Environment's approval requirements, provided that they have a burning capacity of less than 907 kg per hour (200 pounds per hour) and are located at a site for less than one year.

5 The incinerator shall

- be capable of burning all combustible waste to an inert ash
- incorporate a stack of suitable height and an effective spark arrestor

- be maintained in good operating condition such that warped components, leaks, refractory or other damage is repaired as soon as is practicable
- be provided with underfire air
- be provided with overfire air for all incinerator types excepting controlled air units

The Board recognizes that many wells, batteries, or schemes which do not have a camp associated with them may have insufficient waste to justify installation of an incinerator. However, on such sites, combustible waste must still be contained and disposed of with a frequency and in such a manner that no hazard or nuisance is created.

DATED at Calgary, Alberta, on 24 June 1981.

V. E. Bohme
Board Member